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His first biological text-book, "Elements of Botany," appeared in 1896 and its excellence was speedily recognized. With some modifications it was subsequently republished under the name of "Essentials of Botany," and in 1901 Mr. Bergen brought out his "Foundations of Botany," including a condensed flora for school use. Other text-books with special adaptation for schools of particular grades of scientific equipment were later published by Mr. Bergen with the collaboration of Dr. Otis W. Caldwell and Professor Bradley M. Davis.

By his long personal experience in the difficulties of the presentation of the subject of botany in the secondary school Mr. Bergen was able to frame these text-books in a way to meet both the needs of teacher and pupil and it is doubtful if any other texts have been more widely used or met with a greater success during the last two decades in the field which they cover.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS

THE American Association of Variable Star Observers concludes this month six years of active service with a record of 15,763 observations of 332 variable stars for the year, and a grand total for the six years of 75,373 observations.

The past year has been one of marked progress in the efficiency of the scientific service rendered and growth in the membership of the association.

A meeting of the association will be held at the Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass., at 2 P.M., November 10. At this meeting a constitution and by-laws will be adopted and officers elected. Seventy-two observers have already enrolled as charter members and a cordial invitation is extended to all interested in the work to be present at the meeting. It will be a splendid opportunity to inspect through the courtesy of the director, Professor E. C. Pickering, the historic Harvard College observatory and to see exhibits of great interest to all astronomically inclined.

The undersigned will be pleased to answer any questions relative to the work of the association and will be glad to hear from any one

who wishes to join the organization, and take up a line of telescopic work that is teeming with interest, devoid of mathematics and intricate detail, and eminently worth while.

WILLIAM TYLER OLCOTT,
Corresponding Secretary

NORWICH, CONN.

THE CORNELL MEDICAL SCHOOL

CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE opened its twentieth session on October 1, 1917. The student assembly was addressed by Dr. William H. Polk, the dean, who discussed the relation of the medical college to the present military situation and outlined the opportunities for patriotic service by students of medicine. The attention of the student assembly was called to the active participation in the work of the United States of America by the college, the members of the faculty and the medical graduates by active service in the field and by providing facilities for the instruction of officers of the Medical Reserve Corps. The entering students were exhorted to continue their course, that, in accord with the announced plan of the authorities, they may be prepared to fill the vacancies in the medical ranks which, with the continuance of the war, are certain to arise. The enrollment is as follows: First year, registered in New York, 38; registered at Ithaca, 30; total, 68; second year, 34; third year, 29; fourth year, 27; graduates in medicine, 4; total, 182. All students registered for the degree of M.D. (with the exception of those in the first year who are taking the seven-year course leading to the degrees of A.B. and M.D.), are graduates in arts or science. As a result practically all members of the first-year class fall within the limits of the military draft. Several students, having been drafted into the National Army, or fearing the draft in the immediate future, failed to register.

A SCHOOL FOR ORAL AND PLASTIC SURGERY

By order of the surgeon general of the army an officers' school for oral and plastic surgery has been established in St. Louis. The purpose of this new school is to train a